

Message Text

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22

ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-09 ISO-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 INR-07 IO-13

L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-15 SS-15 SP-02

INT-05 CEA-01 CIEP-02 FPC-01 H-02 OMB-01 SAM-01

STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-10 /139 W
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R 060652Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8461

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION IAEC VIENNA

ERDA HQ WASHDC

ERDA HQ GERMANTOWN MD

UNCLAS CANBERRA 4838

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, ENRG, AS

SUBJECT: RANGER URANIUM ENVIRONMENTAL INQUIRY

1. THE RANGER INQUIRY (FOX COMMISSION) HAS COMPLETED ITS HEARINGS EXCEPT FOR A THREE-DAY HEARING IN SYDNEY BEGINNING ON AUGUST 9. THE FINAL THREE-DAY SESSION WILL NOT CONSIST OF NEW HEARINGS, BUT RATHER FINAL ROUNDUP SUBMISSIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED FROM THE RANGER CONSORTIUM WHICH INCLUDES PEKO-WALLSEND AND E.Z. INDUSTRIES, ONE ENVIRONMENTALIST POSITION E.G., FRIENDS OF THE EARTH, AND THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT.

2. JUSTICE FOX, AND TWO COMMISSIONERS, C. KELLEHER AND C. KERR ARE LEAVING THIS WEEK TO VISIT NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IN THE U.K. AND WEST GERMANY.

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EM JUSTICE FOX HAS REQUESTED AN INCREASE IN STAFF TO ENABLE

THE COMMISSION TO PRESENT TO THE GOA BY THE END OF AUGUST, THE FIRST OF TWO COMMISSION REPORTS. NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE BY THE GOA CONCERNING THE REQUEST FOR A STAFF INCREASE. ASSUMING FOX'S REQUEST IS NOT UNREASONABLE, AND BECAUSE THE GOA IS VERY DESIROUS OF COMPLETING THE INQUIRY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, THE STAFF INCREASE LIKELY TO BE APPROVED.

4. THE FIRST PART OF THE RANGER REPORT WILL DEAL WITH THE GENERAL ISSUES CONCERNING THE MINING OF URANIUM AND ITS ASSOCIATED ENVIRONMENTAL AND LOGISTICAL PROBLEMS. THIS INSTALLMENT HOPEFULLY WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF AUGUST.

5. THE SECOND PART OF THE RANGER REPORT WILL BE SITE-SPECIFIC AND DEAL WITH PROPOSED MINING VENTURES IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY. IT MAY NOT BE COMPLETED UNTIL DECEMBER 1976.

6. BEGIN COMMENT: THE GOA HAS CONSISTENTLY ASSERTED THAT NO POLICY DECISIONS WILL BE MADE RELATIVE TO THE URANIUM INDUSTRY UNTIL THE COMPLETION OF THE RANGER INQUIRY. IF PART TWO OF THE INQUIRY IS NOT AVAILABLE UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR, IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT KEY URANIUM POLICY DECISIONS MAY BE DELAYED UNTIL THEN. END COMMENT. HARGROVE

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04 MAY 2006

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